

THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF NUYTS ARCHIPELAGO AND
THE INVESTIGATOR GROUP.
No. 5.—THE LIZARDS.

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(Communicated by Professor F. Wood Jones.)

Very little is known about the island fauna of this region, and the present collection, which was made chiefly in Nuyts Archipelago and the Investigator Group, is therefore interesting. Many of the mainland species which one would have expected to find in the islands were not obtained, and probably do not occur. Examples of twelve species were collected, several of which are extremely rare, and one of which is new. The latter I have named after Prof. Wood Jones, who has kindly presented the whole collection to the British Museum.

For the sake of brevity, the only references given are:—(1) The original description of the species. (2) Boulenger's, in his Catalogue of Lizards.⁽¹⁾ (3) Zietz's Catalogue of Australian Lizards,⁽²⁾ to which useful work the reader is referred for information on the distribution and synonymy of each species and the bibliography of the subject.

GECKONIDAE.

1. *Phyllodactylus marmoratus*. Gray, Cat., 1845, p. 149; Boulenger, B.M. Cat. Liz., vol. i., p. 88, pl. vii., fig. 6; Zietz, Cat. Austr. Liz., p. 185.

Two specimens from South Neptune Island and five from Black Rock. Occurs also on Franklin Island, Pearson Islands, and Price Island. Already known to inhabit Kangaroo Island; it has a wide distribution on the mainland.

PYGOPODIDAE.

2. *Delma fraseri*. Gray, Zool. Misc., 1831, p. 14; Boulenger, *op. c.*, vol. i., p. 243; Zietz, *op. c.*, p. 192.

Three specimens from St. Francis Island. Known from all parts of Australia.

3. *Lialis burtoni*. Gray, P.Z.S., 1834, p. 134; Boulenger, *op. c.*, vol. i., p. 247; Zietz, *op. c.*, p. 193.

One specimen from St. Francis Island, beautifully marked⁽³⁾ with five dark longitudinal bands above; six cream-coloured bands beneath, with a series of fine cream-coloured speckles between each. Scales in 21 rows.

Known from all parts of Australia and New Guinea.

AGAMIDAE.

4. *Amphibolurus decresii*. Dum. and Bibr., Erp. Gen., 1837, vol. iv., p. 472, pl. xli., fig 1; Boulenger, *op. c.*, vol. i., p. 385; Zietz, *op. c.*, p. 196.

A male and female of this very rare species were caught on Pearson Island. The British Museum possesses but two specimens, both males.

The new male has longer legs, which, when adpressed, reach to between the eye and the nostril, and a longer tail, more than twice the length of head

(1) Brit. Mus. Cat. Liz., 1885-87.

(2) Rec. S. Austr. Mus., i. (3), 1920.

(3) Brit. Mus. Cat., var. E.

and body. Its colouration is striking; almost black above with a dorso-lateral and lateral series of golden elongated spots; throat golden reticulated with bluish-grey; a large black area on chest, continuing in a point almost to the vent, and produced along the under-surfaces of the arms. The female is beautifully variegated, with a light salmon-pink on dark brown, with series of dorso-lateral and lateral spots, or broken stripes as in the male, but continuing in bright longitudinal bands down the tail; throat marbled with grey, the rest of the lower surfaces immaculate cream colour. [The species is very abundant on Pearson Island, but has been seen on no other islands.—F. W. J.]

SCINCIDAE.

5. *Egernia whitii*. Lacep., Ann. Mus. Paris, iv., 1804, p. 192; Boulenger, *op. c.*, vol. iii., p. 135; Zietz, *op. c.*, p. 203.

Three specimens from Greenly Island and one from Franklin Island.

All are handsomely marked, and those from Greenly Island had evidently the under-surfaces brick-red in life, with blue throats marbled with black. The head-shields are extremely variable, particularly the frontal, which may be in contact with the frontonasal, or widely separated from it by the internasals.

The British Museum has a specimen from Kangaroo Island, the nearest locality to those recorded above. The species has a very wide distribution.

6. *Lygosoma (Lirolepisma) entrecasteauxii*. Dum. and Bibr., Erp. Gen., v., 1839, p. 717; Boulenger, *op. c.*, p. 276; Zietz, *op. c.*, p. 203.

One specimen from Pearson Island.

This charming skink was until recently only known from Tasmania. The British Museum has received no specimens since 1887, when the Catalogue was published.

The new specimen is particularly well marked, being olive, with a black vertebral streak flanked on each side by a series of round black spots. It has also a light-spotted dark dorso-lateral band edged by a light and a dark lateral streak. The tail is annulated with small olive and black ocelli; the lips and lower parts are turquoise-blue. The dorsal scales are tricarinate.

7. *Lygosoma (Homolepida) wood-jonesii*, n. sp.

Material.—An adult female and two half-grown specimens.

Locality.—St. Francis Island.

Diagnosis.—Allied to the Western Australian *L. gastrostigma*, Blgr.,⁽⁴⁾ from which it differs chiefly in having smaller eye and ear openings, a shorter interparietal shield, more widely expanded median subcaudals, 28 instead of 26 rows of scales, and in colouration.

Description.—Body very elongate; the distance between snout-tip and fore limb goes twice and two-thirds in the distance between axilla and groin in the adult, just over twice in the half-grown specimens. Tail about as long as head and body.

Snout moderate; obtusely pointed. Eye small, about as deep as the sixth upper labial; lower eyelid scaly. Nostril pierced in a single nasal which forms a suture with its fellow; a vertical groove behind the nostril, as in *L. branchiale* and *L. gastrostigma*. Ear opening very small, with one lobe anteriorly. Frontonasal broader than long, forming a suture with the frontal; praefrontals separated from each other, sometimes widely; frontal two-thirds broad as long, longer than its distance from the snout-tip, in contact with first and second supraoculars; frontoparietals two-thirds as long as interparietal, which separates the parietals. Loreals small, square; 2 praecoculars, 3 supraoculars; 6 superciliaries; 2 series of suboculars (the inner of minute scales).

(4) Boulenger, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1898, p. 222, pl. Ivii.

the outer interrupted by the sixth upper labial, 8 upper and 6 lower labials, 3 pairs of nuchals, 28 smooth scales round the middle of the body, the two median rows largest. No enlarged praeanales. Median subcaudal plates strongly dilated transversely, being more than half the width of under-surface of tail, and twice the width of bordering scale-rows.⁽⁵⁾

Limbs short; the length of the hind limbs equals the distance between the fore limb and anterior corner of eye or more (to second labial); third and fourth toes equal, or third a little longer, 12 or 13 lamellae beneath the fourth toe, 10 or 11 beneath the third finger.

Upper-surfaces dark greyish-brown, uniform, each scale narrowly edged with black. Lighter beneath, each scale also dark edged. Traces of rust-colour about the anal region of the adult female.

8. *Lygosoma (Hemiergus) peronii*. Fitz., Neue Classif. Rept., 1826, p. 53; Boulenger, *op. c.*, vol. iii., p. 326; Zietz, *op. c.*, p. 215.

Specimens from Streaky Bay (mainland), South Neptune Island, Black Rock, St. Francis Island, Pearson Island, Price Island, and Flinders Island.

Two specimens (Streaky Bay and St. Francis Island) show the typical form of colouration, in which the dorsal area is uniform or speckled with black. The rest are strongly marked with a vertebral paired series of black dots, which may be confluent into a single vertebral streak. So striking is this character, that if it were not for the exceptions mentioned I should be inclined to consider that these insular specimens belonged to a distinct race.

Slight variations of form occur, one specimen being unusually elongate, the distance from axilla to groin being three times that from fore limb to snout-tip.

9. *L. (Hemiergus) decresiensis*. Fitz., Neue Classif. Rept., 1826, p. 53; Boulenger, *op. c.*, vol. iii., p. 327; Zietz, *op. c.*, p. 216.

One specimen of this rare skink from Flinders Island. The British Museum has only four specimens, one of which is from Kangaroo Island.

10. *L. (Rhodoma) frosti*. *Rhodoma tetradactyla*, Lucas and Frost, Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict. (n. ser.), vol. vii., 1895, p. 268, and Rep. Horn Expd., ii., 1896, p. 142, pl. xii., fig. 3; ⁽⁶⁾*L. frosti*, Zietz, *op. c.*, p. 217.

Specimens from Streaky Bay (mainland), Flinders Island, and South Neptune Island.

This extremely rare and interesting skink was first discovered in Central Australia. The only two specimens in the British Museum are from Murray River, South Australia.

The digits of the Southern specimens compared with the plate of the type of *L. tetradactyla*, appear to be longer and more slender, particularly the third finger and toe. It is possible that the two may be distinct varieties or geographical races.

11. *L. (Rhodoma) punctatovittatum*. Günther, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (3), vol. xx., 1867, p. 47; Boulenger, *op. c.*, vol. iii., p. 335; Zietz, *op. c.*, p. 216.

One specimen of this extremely rare skink from Flinders Island. The British Museum has only the type-specimen, received in 1866; the new individual agrees with this in every detail.

12. *Ablepharus lineo-ocellata*. Dum. and Bibr., Erp. Gen., vol. v., p. 817; Boulenger, *op. c.*, vol. iii., p. 348; Zietz, *op. c.*, p. 220.

One very young specimen from St. Francis Island.

The dorsal ocelli are well marked.

⁽⁵⁾ In *L. gastrostigma* these plates are but one-third the width of the tail, and once and a half times the width of the bordering scales; moreover, they are scale-shaped, whereas in *L. wood-jonesii* they are shape of the ventrals of a snake.

⁽⁶⁾ Specific name preoccupied.